



*Department of State*

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 L-03 SS-15 PRS-01 PA-02 PM-03 IO-10

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ISRAELI PAPER REPORTS SECRET U.S.-ISRAELI AGREEMENT  
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TEL AVIV MA'ARIV IN HEBREW 17 JUN 75 PP 1,2 TA

((BY MA'ARIV CORRESPONDENT IN WASHINGTON SHMUEL SEGEV))

((TEXT)) DESPITE THE PUBLIC WARNINGS THAT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ON MAIN SUBJECTS STILL EXIST BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. IT IS LEARNED THAT PRIME MINISTER YIZHAQ RABIN HAS REACHED A SECRET AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES ACCORDING TO WHICH ISRAEL WILL WITHDRAW FROM THE MITLA AND JIDDI PASSES AND FROM THE ABU RUDAYS OIL FIELDS IN EXCHANGE FOR AN EGYPTIAN COMMITMENT TO EXTEND THE UNEF MANDATE IN SINAI BY 3 RPT 3 YEARS.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN WASHINGTON SAID THAT, WITH THE APPROVAL OF BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF "CAUTION" AND TO KEEP THE DETAILS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS SECRET IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE PRIME MINISTER TO OVERCOME THE POSSIBLE OBJECTIONS WITHIN HIS GOVERNMENT.

((IT WAS REPORTED THIS MORNING FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, THAT IT IS "A COMPLETE LIE AND FABRICATION" THAT A SECRET AGREEMENT HAS ALLEGEDLY BEEN REACHED BETWEEN MR. RABIN AND THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON ON A SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE GIVING UP OF THE PASSES IN SINAI. THE SAME SOURCE ADDED THAT NO SECRET AGREEMENT HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO MR. RABIN AT ALL)).

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IT IS LEARNED THAT MR. RABIN DEMANDED THAT THE UNEF MANDATE BE EXTENDED BY 5 RPT 5 YEARS, BUT PRESIDENT GERALD FORD AND SECRETARY OF STATE DR. KISSINGER EXPRESSED THEIR OPINION THAT PRESIDENT ANWAR AS-SADAT WOULD NOT AGREE TO SUCH A LONG PERIOD OF TIME FOR FEAR HE WOULD BE ACCUSED OF HAVING BETRAYED THE ARAB CAUSE.

HOWEVER, KISSINGER REPORTEDLY BELIEVES THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO PERSUADE AS-SADAT TO AGREE TO EXTEND THE UNEF MANDATE BY 3 RPT 3 YEARS ON TWO CONDITIONS:

A) ONLY PART OF THE EXTENSION PERIOD WOULD BE MENTIONED IN THE OFFICIAL AGREEMENT, WHILE THE OTHER PART WOULD ONLY BE INCLUDED IN A "PRIVATE COMMITMENT" WHICH EGYPT WOULD GIVE TO THE UNITED STATES.

B) IT WOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WOULD NOT LEAD TO A FREEZING OF THE SITUATION; INSTEAD IT WOULD MAKE POSSIBLE FURTHER STEPS IN SINAI AND ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS AND THE CREATION OF AN ATMOSPHERE MORE CONDUCTIVE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN OVERALL AGREEMENT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO PREPARE THE GROUND FOR SUCH A STEP. IN TALKS WITH THE ISRAELI DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN NEW YORK, HELD ON FRIDAY NIGHT, MR. RABIN SAID THAT "ANYONE WHO SPEAKS ABOUT A STANDSTILL AFTER THE SIGNING OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HE IS TALKING ABOUT. FURTHER STEPS WILL BE MADE. BUT OUR AIM IS THAT IF WE RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES WITH EGYPT, SYRIA OR ANY OTHER STATE, THE INTERIM AGREEMENT SHOULD CONTINUE TO REMAIN BINDING AND THAT ADDITIONAL EFFORTS WOULD BE MADE TO REACH A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT BEFORE RESORTING TO THE USE OF FORCE."

BEFORE THAT, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT AS-SADAT HAD SAID SOMETHING SIMILAR: "THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT WILL NEVER FIND ITS SOLUTION IN WAR. ALL CARDS IN THE GAME ARE IN THE HANDS OF THE UNITED STATES."

ACCORDING TO THE SECRET AGREEMENT REACHED IN THE KISSINGER-RABIN TALKS, THE UNITED STATES WILL TRY TO WORK OUT THE FINAL DETAILS OF THE NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT IN CONTACTS WITH EGYPT, AND ONLY AFTER EVERYTHING IS GOOD AND READY WILL MR. RABIN BRING THE AGREEMENT BEFORE THE CABINET FOR APPROVAL. UNTIL THEN, IT WILL BE RABIN'S OFFICIAL STAND THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR ISRAEL TO CHANGE ITS POSITION, AND IF THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE EGYPTIAN POSITION THERE WON'T BE ANY CHANGE IN ISRAEL'S POSITION, EITHER.

DESPITE THIS FIRM DECLARATION, IT IS LEARNED THAT A SECRET

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AGREEMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN REACHED WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE GENERAL LINES OF THE NEXT INTERIM AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO THE AGREEMENT, ISRAEL WILL WITHDRAW TO THE NEW LINE BEYOND THE OIL FIELDS OF ABU RUDAYS AND THE MITLA AND JIDDI PASSES IN EXCHANGE FOR A LESS BINDING FORMULA REGARDING THE "NONUSE OF FORCE" FOR A PERIOD OF 3 RPT 3 YEARS. HOWEVER, BOTH ISRAEL AND EGYPT WOULD BE ALLOWED TO MAINTAIN ELECTRONIC WARNING SYSTEMS ON THE RIDGES OVERLOOKING THE PASSES. THE EGYPTIAN ARMY WOULD BE ALLOWED TO ADVANCE FROM ITS PRESENT POSITIONS TO THE BORDER OF THE PRESENT BUFFER ZONE, BUT WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO STATION REGULAR TROOPS IN THE PASSES EXCEPT FOR SMALL UNITS OF TECHNICIANS THAT WOULD OPERATE THE ELECTRONIC WARNING SYSTEM.

NOW THAT ISRAEL'S CONSENT TO REMOVE THE TWO MAIN OBSTACLES, WHICH HAD PREVENTED AN AGREEMENT, HAS BEEN RECEIVED--THE GIVING UP OF THE NONBELLIGERENCY DECLARATION BY EGYPT AND THE DEMAND THAT THE IDF HOLD ON TO THE EASTERN PART OF THE PASSES--PRESIDENT AS-SADAT HAS AGREED--SO IT IS LEARNED--TO MAKE SOME ADDITIONAL GESTURES TOWARDS ISRAEL. IN HIS MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND DR. KISSINGER IN SALZBURG, AS-SADAT AGREED--SO IT IS LEARNED--TO STRIKE MANY U.S. FIRMS MAINTAINING TRADE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL FROM THE "BLACKLIST" OF THE EGYPTIAN BOYCOTT AGAINST ISRAEL, BUT NOT FROM THE ALL-ARAB BLACKLIST.

HOWEVER, AS-SADAT DID NOT AGREE TO ABOLISH THE BLACKLIST ALTOGETHER; AND EVEN DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF OFFICIALLY TO END THE POLITICAL WAR AGAINST ISRAEL IN THE UNITED NATIONS OR AMONG THE STATES OF THE "THIRD WORLD." ONE HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS ENDORSED AS-SADAT'S ATTITUDE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, EGYPT HAS GIVEN CERTAIN HINTS THAT IT IS LIKELY TO ALLOW ISRAELI SAILORS SERVING ON FOREIGN SHIPS TO PASS THROUGH THE CANAL, BUT AT A LATER DATE AND NOT IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE NEW INTERIM AGREEMENT IS SIGNED.

AS TO THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE AGREEMENT IN SINAI AND SOME "MOVE" ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS, IT IS LEARNED THAT RABIN HAS TAKEN UPON HIMSELF TO RECOMMEND TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT "TO REACH A PRIVATE UNDERSTANDING" CONCERNING SUCH A MOVE ON THE GOLAN, ALTHOUGH THE LINK BETWEEN THE WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI AND A MOVE ON THE GOLAN WILL NOT BE PART OF THE FORMAL AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT. THE VARIOUS OPTIONS FOR THE "MOVE" ON THE GOLAN WILL BE EXAMINED ON FRIDAY IN TALKS WHICH PRESIDENT FORD AND DR. KISSINGER WILL CONDUCT WITH SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ABD AL-HALIM KHADDAM.

IN VARIOUS STATEMENTS THAT HE HAS RECENTLY VOICED IN

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